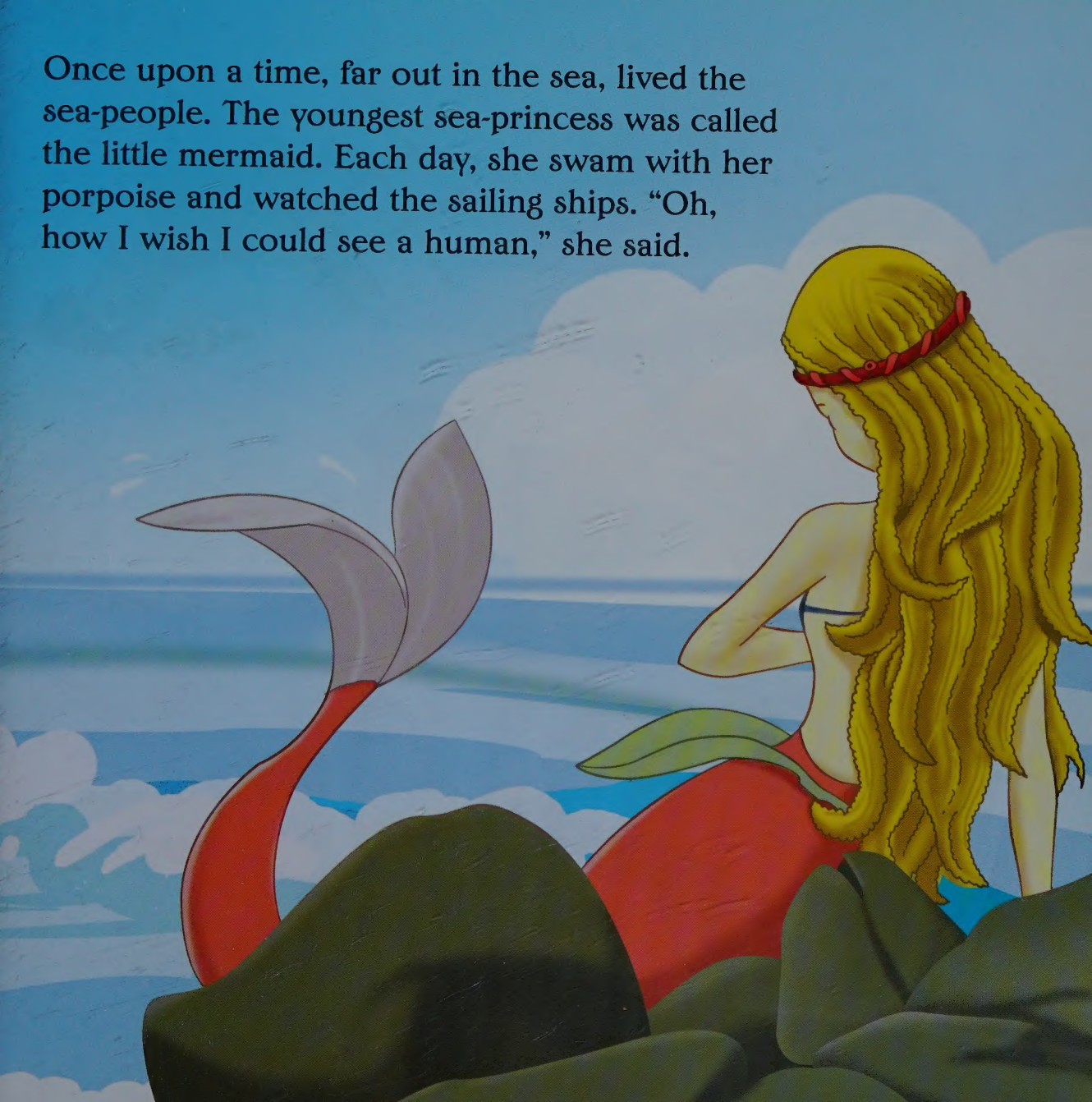
Little Mermaid

Hans Christian Andersen

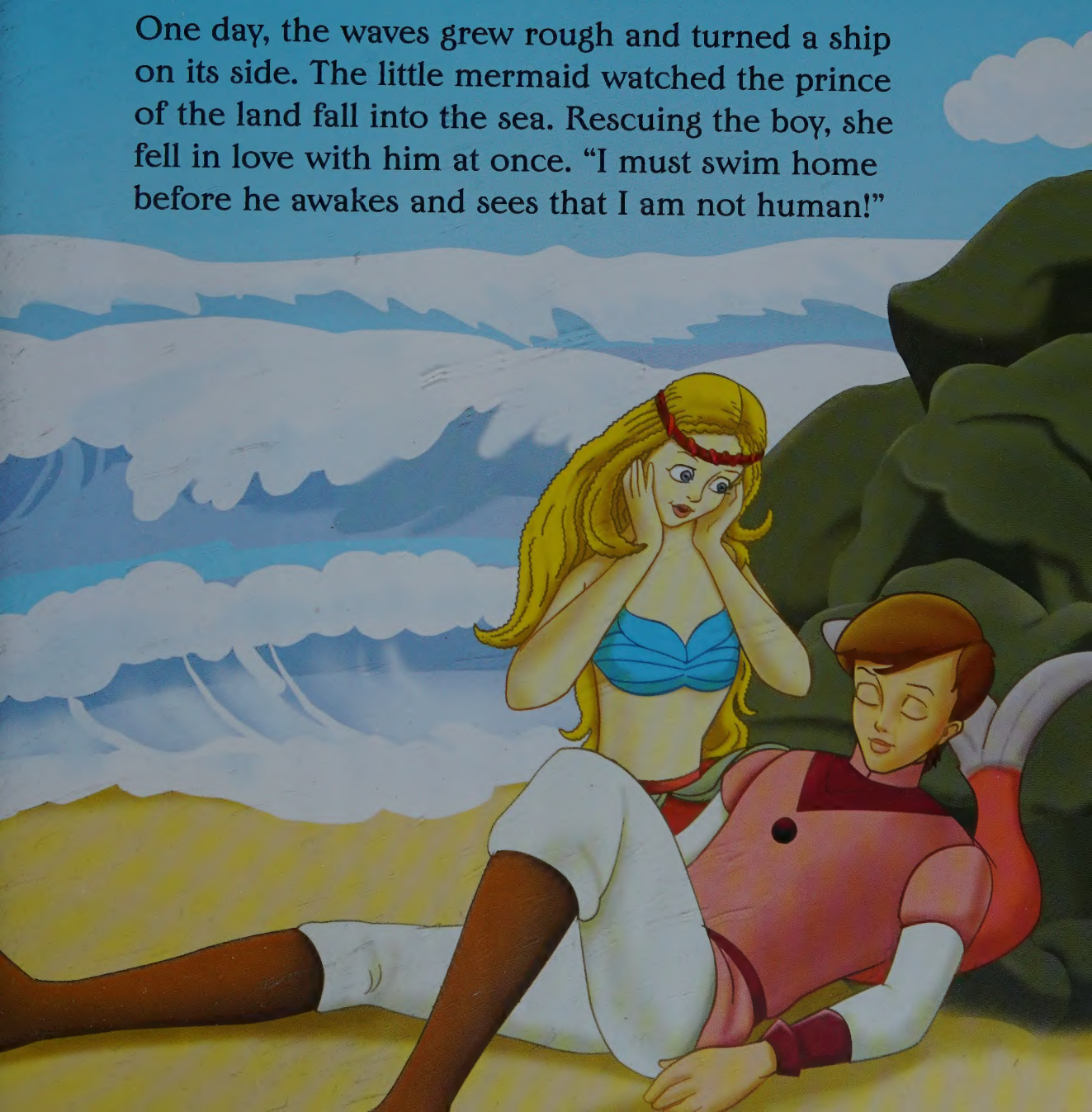
Little Mermaid

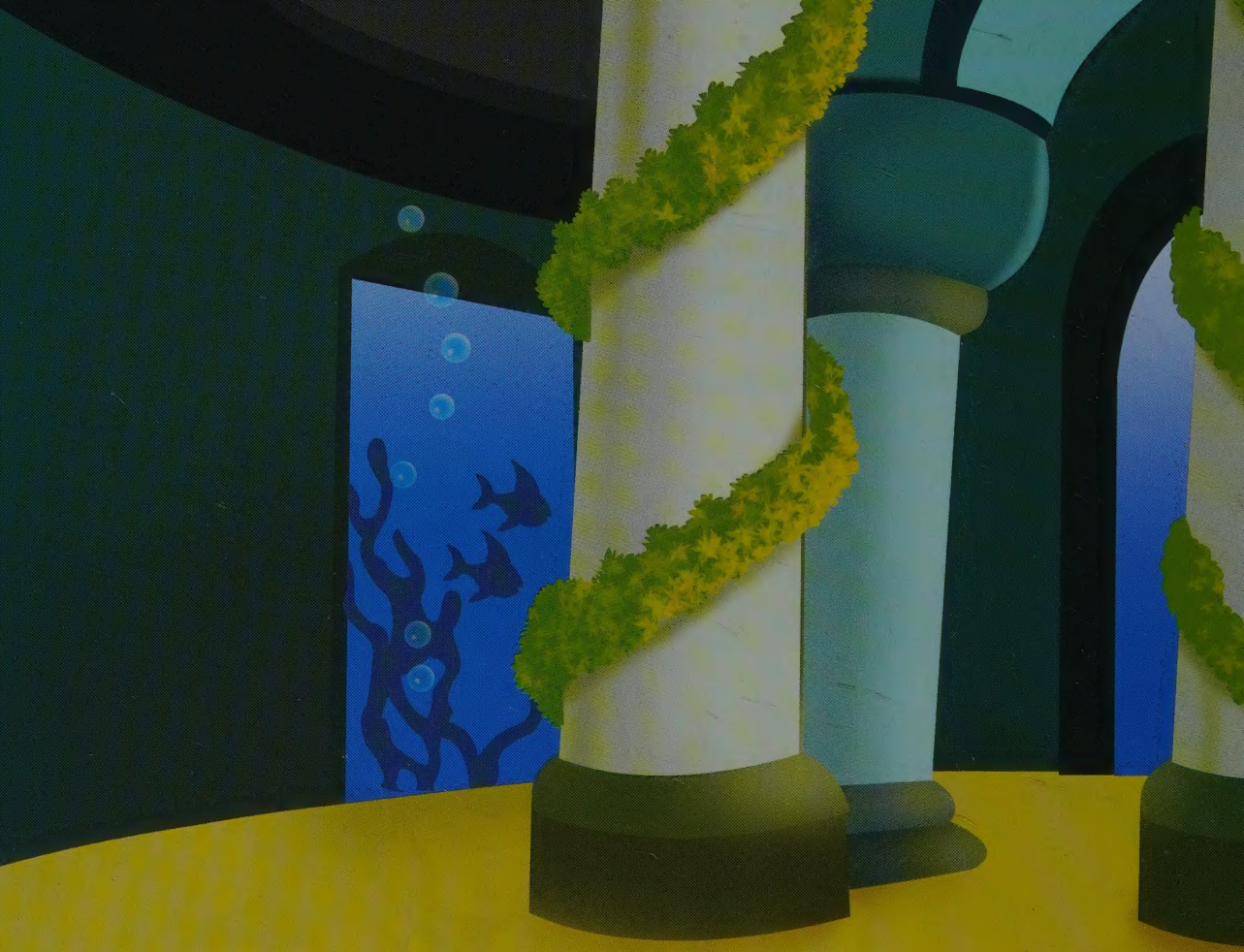
Adapted from the original
by Hans Christian Andersen

Once upon a time, far out in the sea, lived the sea-people. The youngest sea-princess was called the little mermaid. Each day, she swam with her porpoise and watched the sailing ships. "Oh, how I wish I could see a human," she said.



One day, the waves grew rough and turned a ship on its side. The little mermaid watched the prince of the land fall into the sea. Rescuing the boy, she fell in love with him at once. "I must swim home before he awakes and sees that I am not human!"





"Grandmother," she cried, "I found my true love, the prince! Now I want to be a human." So her grandmother cast a magical spell. She said, "Swim to the prince's castle and sleep on the shore. This magic will last only if you marry your true love."

When the mermaid awoke on the beach the next day, she had the prettiest pair of feet a girl could have. She saw that right beside her, there stood the charming prince. "My dear girl," he said, "did you fall into the sea like I did? Let me take you home."

In the castle, she received splendid clothes of silk. She was the most beautiful creature to be seen. The prince asked to be her best friend. He called her his little foundling and took her everywhere with him.

But one morning, she learned the prince was to be married—to someone else—that very day. At the wedding, although her heart was breaking, she glided over the floor as no one had ever danced.

Late that evening, the little mermaid walked to the edge of the sea and called to her porpoise. "Please take me home before the magic wears off," she cried. "I want to go back to my grandmother."

They swam deep down
into the sea, where
the little mermaid lived
happily ever after.

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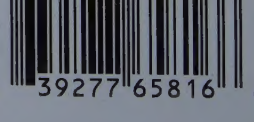

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